

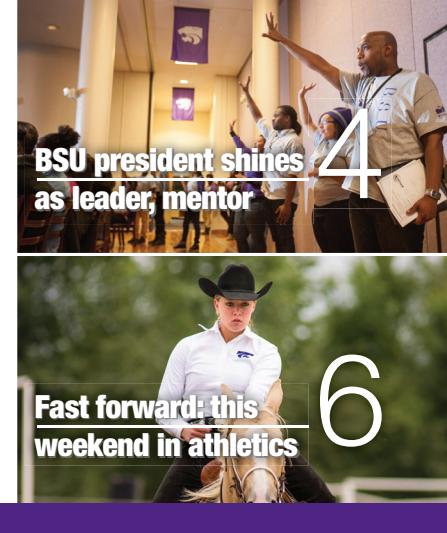


friday, march 1, 2013

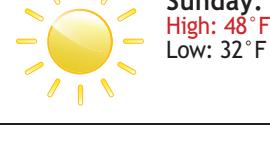
# the collegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

VOL. 118 NO. 104



kstatecollegian.com



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## Union ends Varney's partnership

Austin Nichols  
news editor

The Union Corporation Board accepted the recommendation of Follett Higher Education Group Inc. for the K-State Student Union bookstore contract Thursday. Follett will operate the bookstore in the Union and at K-State-Salina. The contract will begin July 1.

Follett and Varney's were invited to campus last month to give presentations and answer questions from students, staff and faculty. The Procurement Negotiation Committee forwarded its recommendation to the Union Governing Board for approval, then met with the respective vendors after the presentation for more information.

The decision for the bookstore contract came right on time for Bill Smriga, Union director, who said Feb. 14 that he had hoped there would be a decision by today.

The decision ends an 11-year relationship between the Union and Varney's. Varney's has operated in the Union since 2002 and held a 10-year contract with a one-year extension prior to this decision.

## SGA: more students running for office now

Zach Foley  
staff writer

During an unusual dressed-down meeting in the Big 12 Room, the Student Governing Association conducted business as usual despite the presence of jeans and K-State T-shirts in place of suits and ties. The Student Senate received visits from three speakers, heard an update on the status of the Union bookstore and introduced bills and resolutions.

Megan Walden, SGA social media chair and senior in industrial engineering, informed the group at the end of the meeting that 174 students are running to be a part of student government next year — a 30 percent increase over last year. Walden encouraged current student senators to spread the word about the elections.

"A lot of students don't know the election is going on," Walden said. "We need to raise awareness."

To begin the meeting, Bill Smriga, K-State Student Union director and student life representative, informed the senate that as of July 1, Follett Higher Education Group Inc. will replace Varney's as the bookstore in the Union.

Before any new bills could be introduced, student body president Nate Spriggs, senior in agricultural economics, announced that he had vetoed another bill. During the last meeting, Spriggs vetoed the first bill of his term and the first in recent memory. The bill was an allocation of money for Students for Environmental Action to bring in a speaker; however, due to the weather, the speaker could not make it and was unable to reschedule.

"I don't support that event," Spriggs explained. "I [vetoed the bill] so Student Government could give the money to another student organization."

Had the bill not been vetoed, the funds would have been set aside and become unavailable to another group.

Next, the other bills from the

SGA | pg. 5

## Debate focuses on candidates' strengths

Jeana Lawrence  
staff writer

After being canceled Feb. 21 due to heavy snow, the student body presidential and vice presidential debate was held Thursday night in the K-State Student Union Courtyard.

The debate, hosted by Strengths Advocates, was loosely based on real U.S. presidential and vice presidential debates, but the student candidates were encouraged to discuss their strengths and how they use these to their advantage in leadership roles.

According to Kristen Burton, junior in family studies, K-State has recently paired with Gallup to give all incoming freshmen codes for StrengthsQuest, an online personality survey that provides users with a report listing their top five talent themes and, based on these, suggestions for personal, academic and career improvement. Burton said this was done to encourage "retention, engagement and well-being."

"It was just a chance to give people an opportunity to look at the candidates through their strengths and help



DEBATE | pg. 6



Parker Robb | Collegian  
Student body president candidate Eli Schooley, senior in political science, explains the strengths of his campaign with running mate Jake Unruh, junior in finance, during the candidate strengths debate Thursday evening in the K-State Student Union. The candidates identified their strengths using StrengthsQuest, an online Gallup survey service that K-State recently began providing to incoming freshmen. The election begins next Tuesday and ends Wednesday.

Parker Robb | Collegian  
Student body president candidate Kyle Nuss, senior in architectural engineering, explains the strengths of his campaign with running mate Ariel Mendiola, junior in sociology, during the debate. Kristen Burton, junior in family studies, said the debate gave students "an opportunity to look at the candidates through their strengths and help the candidates see their own strengths."

## Play offers peek into family life

Jakki Thompson  
staff writer

Audience members gave a standing ovation to the cast of "Jar the Floor" as they took their bows at the end of opening night on Thursday in Ebony Theatre.

"I thought the show went really well," said Laura Vallejo, senior in theatre, who played MaDear. "It was a fast-paced

show, yet nothing seemed rushed. We got a standing ovation at the end, which never hurts."

The play, written by Cheryl L. West, follows four generations of African-American women who come together to celebrate the matriarch's 90th birthday. Audience members are introduced to three main themes in this family: under-appreciation,

neglect and abuse.

Libby Uthoff, the show's director and graduate student in theatre, said the show has universal meaning.

"This is a universal show in the sense that it effects everyone," Uthoff said. "It is a hilarious, yet powerful show. This was a strong ensemble piece with strong actors to portray

JAR | pg. 6



Caitlyn Massy | Collegian  
Playing the character of MaDear, Laura Vallejo, senior in theatre, argues onstage with Erika Williams, junior in theatre, as MayDee at the opening night of "Jar the Floor." The play explores the lives of four generations of women and the issues their family faces together.

## Speaker: rights may not be path to justice



Evert Nelson | Collegian  
Richard Thompson Ford engages the audience during his speech at the K-State Alumni Center on Thursday night as part of the Dorothy L. Thompson Civil Rights Lecture Series. "We need to move away from individual entitlement and towards collective action," Ford said.

Ian Huyett  
staff writer

Attentive students crowded the Alumni Center Banquet Room on Thursday night to hear a passionate lecture on civil rights from Stanford law professor Richard Thompson Ford.

Ford's background in law showed Thursday night as he paced enthusiastically, urging the audience to

rethink concepts he believes are taken for granted.

"He raised interesting questions about the role of rights," said Matt DeCapo, graduate student in geography.

Ford proposed that, while rights are sometimes an excellent tool, many people single-mindedly focus on them while neglecting re-

JUSTICE | pg. 6

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## Not enough proof for laws against violent video games



Patrick White

A new measure is being proposed in Connecticut to impose a 10 percent tax on M-rated video games. Republican state representative Debralee Hovey is advocating the measure to educate parents on the danger these games pose to kids.

"M-rated games are purchased most often for children much younger than they are meant for," Hovey said, according to a Feb. 16 Variety article by Ted Johnson.

This is part of a national debate that's been going on since last December's school shooting in Newtown, Conn. Although the measure has yet to be put into a bill and is not likely to pass a First Amendment test, it brings up an important question: Do video games lead to violence?

In many similar tragedies, perpetrators are believed to have been addicts of violent video games. There is, for example, a long-running rumor that the Columbine shootings were planned out in programmed levels of the game "Doom." This rumor is false, but many think it's true.

Do violent games lead to real-life violence? The government has already decided on the matter. In *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the state of California could not ban the games because video games are a form of protected speech.

The court ruled that such a ban would have to serve a specific public good; therefore, the defendants would have to show a strong connecting link between the medium and the actions resulting from it. No studies in the case made such a link, and connections made in the case were moot. Factors such as exposure

to violence were also present in media other than video games.

The misinterpretation of these studies leads to a lot of this anti-video game fervor. According to a Jan. 25 Forbes article by Paul Tassi, Vice President Joe Biden recently jumped on this bandwagon when he announced an initiative for studies to link video game violence to real violence. He did this because of a 2011 study by the American Academy of Pediatrics Association that supposedly linked video games to increased aggression. However, when I looked up the study, I found that the result was taken out of context. The real finding was that competition in video game sessions led to greater aggressive tendencies.

Other studies have found the link between video games and violence to be non-existent. In a 2012 article for the Journal of Psychiatric Research, Chris Ferguson, professor of psychology and criminal justice at Texas A&M International, and several co-authors published a study examining 165 participants over three years and the possibility of a link between video game violence and aggression. The study found that video games weren't linked to aggression, and that instead "depression, antisocial personality traits, exposure to family violence and peer influences were the best predictors of aggression-related outcomes."

What we have so far is a lot of superstitious assertions standing against the proven record. We also have parents who want to use legislation against other parents who buy video games for their kids regardless of their recommended age-group. Parents handing their kids violent shooter games might be horrible, but it is ultimately their choice.

As far as kids getting their hands on adult material themselves, according to information collected by the Federal Trade Commission in 2009, only 20 percent of underage kids shopping for M-rated games were actually able to succeed in purchasing the



item. Meanwhile, 60 percent of underage kids were able to buy tickets to or purchase R-rated movies.

If there is an actual link between video games and violence, we need better research to prove it. Right now, we can't really say.

Illustration by Parker Wilhelm

Patrick White is a junior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to [opinion@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:opinion@kstatecollegian.com).

## Separate 'traditional prom' is legal, but discrimination is unacceptable

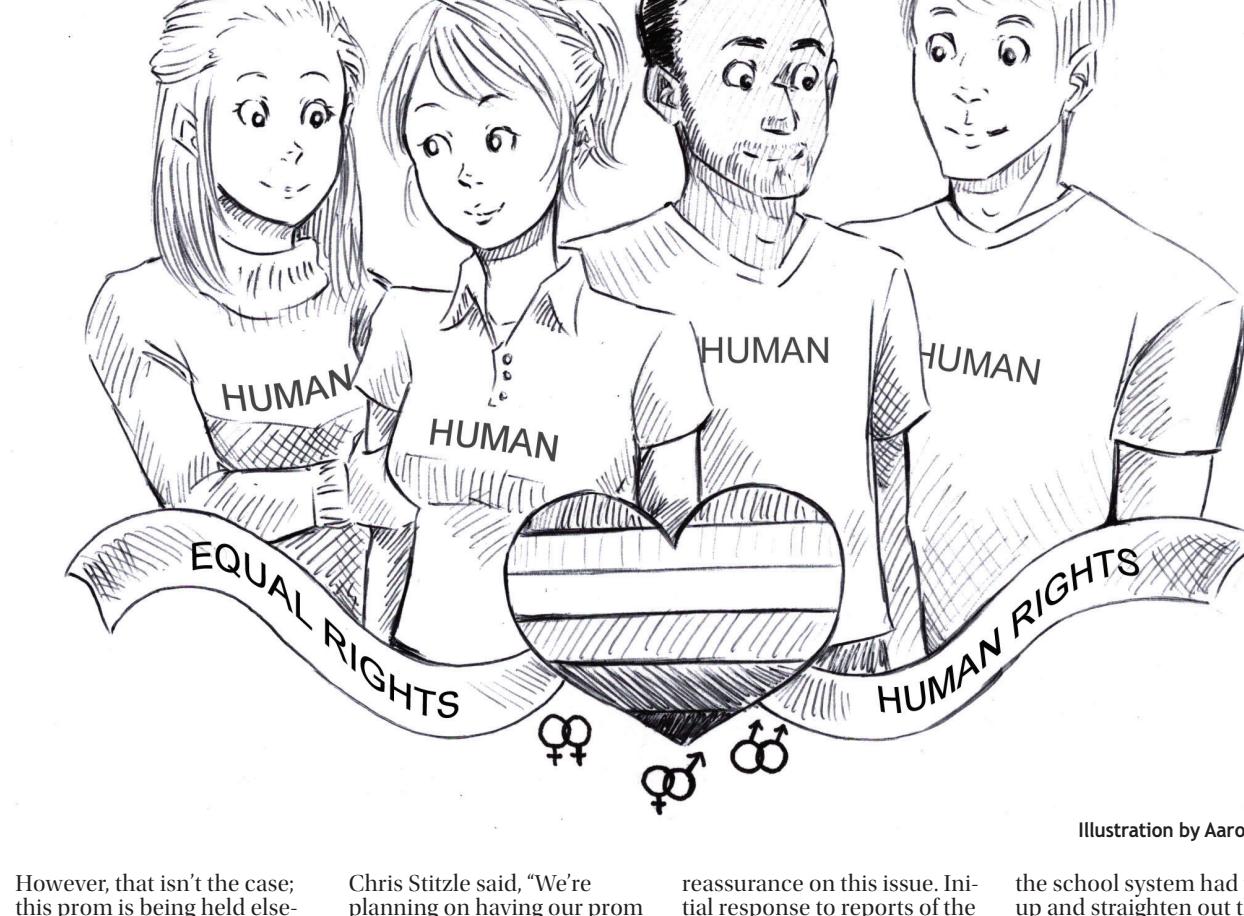


Jacob Allen

There are certain issues that each generation has to deal with in its lifetime. During the last century, women gained the right to vote. In the mid-20th century, the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. granted equal rights to African-American citizens. In our country today, the equal rights of gay and lesbian people are the major issue.

Nine states have legalized gay marriage, and three of those states, Maine, Maryland and Washington, did so by popular vote in last year's elections. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. With that, I am going to stand up for this issue. The equal rights of gay and lesbian people is our generation's civil rights movement. It is time to do something about it.

A little over a week ago, a group of people in the small town of Sullivan, Ind., met at a local church to organize what they are calling a "traditional prom." It's "traditional" in the sense that they will not be allowing gay or lesbian students to attend. At first, I was shocked and outraged. I thought that the supporters of this "traditional prom" were trying to get the prom held by Sullivan High School to be their stomping ground.



However, that isn't the case; this prom is being held elsewhere by a group of parents, students and clergymen.

According to a Feb. 11 RTV6 News article by Jenna Kooi, Southwest School Corporation Superintendent

Chris Stitzle said, "We're planning on having our prom just like we always have. We encourage all our students to participate. We treat all students with respect and dignity."

Reading this gave me some

reassurance on this issue. Initial response to reports of the "traditional prom" assumed that the group was calling for the school to deny gay and lesbian students entrance to the prom. To contradict this, someone with authority in

the school system had to step up and straighten out the story.

I am not here to bash this group of people in Sullivan and their "traditional prom." They have every right to throw an event and invite

people as they see fit. But I don't have to agree with them.

The real reason many were upset seems to be because of a particular statement made by Diana Medley, a special education teacher at a nearby school and supporter of the "traditional prom."

In a Feb. 11 article on WCPO, Medley was asked whether she thought gays had a purpose in life. She responded by saying, "No, I honestly don't. Sorry, I don't. I don't understand it."

Gays don't have a purpose in life? These human beings don't have a purpose in life? I understand that those with strong religious beliefs are against the idea of being gay and think it is a decision, but I can't wrap my head around the fact that someone actually thinks this demographic of human beings don't have a purpose in life.

Macklemore and Ryan Lewis have a powerful song called "Same Love" that has really stuck with me. It has a message dealing with equal rights for gay and lesbian people. It's time for everyone to be "fighting for humans that have had their rights stolen" and to know that there is "no freedom 'til we're equal, damn right I support it."

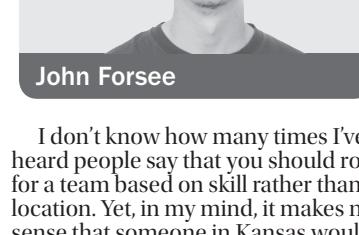
I stand for equal rights of all human beings regardless of gender, race, religion and sexuality. Where do you stand?

Jacob Allen is a junior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to [opinion@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:opinion@kstatecollegian.com).

## Team loyalty should be based on locality, sportsmanship, not skill



Illustration by Chris Sanford



I don't know how many times I've heard people say that you should root for a team based on skill rather than location. Yet, in my mind, it makes no sense that someone in Kansas would root for the Yankees instead of the Royals, or worse, root against their local college team.

If you live in or near Manhattan, for the love of Pete, root for the Wildcats; as much as I hate the Jayhawks, if you live in or around Lawrence, root for KU. I don't know how many people argue, "Well, KU is better at basketball, so root for them," or "K-State is better at football, so root for them."

There is a saying that goes, "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." K-State plays hard no

matter what and it's always great to see that. If your team plays hard, there is no reason to root for another team. It drives me up the wall when people are "fair-weather fans," no matter if it's with professional or college sports.

Another important thing is attitude. If your team does not have a good attitude or bring their best to every game, then I can understand you not rooting for them. Here in Kansas, both KU and K-State play with a lot of heart and intensity in every game and sport. Root for the team you should be rooting for no matter how bad they are.

As my father would say, "They may beat you, but they'll never win." What counts is having a good attitude, being a good sport and trying your best. I strongly urge fans to stick with the teams in their towns, even if the Chiefs, Royals and, God forbid, the Wildcats are not good at their respective sports.

John Forsee is a junior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to [opinion@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:opinion@kstatecollegian.com).

## Hispanic students experience unique challenges, benefits at K-State

Kaitlyn Dewell  
staff writer

Most would agree that in today's society, obtaining a college education is a necessary step to a successful career. While attending college after high school graduation has been on the radar for many students since the day they were born, that is not the case for everyone.

According to a June 26, 2012, Deseret News article by Mercedes White, white adults are two times as likely as U.S.-born Hispanic adults to receive a bachelor's degree and four times as likely as foreign-born Hispanics.

K-State's student body demographic contains low Hispanic student enrollment, but that trend is changing.

While it is true that the K-State student population consists of a wide variety of demographics, the ratios of this ethnic mosaic often stun prospective Hispanic students. In 2008, only 756 of the 23,520 students enrolled at K-State were of Hispanic descent. Four years later, His-

panic students account for 1,290 of the 24,378 students at the university — still only 5 percent of the entire student population.

Elbert Rosales, junior in social work, feels that Hispanic students at K-State face constant challenges.

"I think we still kind of face being the minority in a pretty white-dominant classroom," Rosales said.

However, he said sometimes this awareness can be an educational and empowering experience.

"It's kind of unique, because you learn how to interact when you're the only minority around people," Rosales said. "It also makes you open up and not be scared to talk to people who are not your color, your race or your ethnicity."

Karem Roman, senior in family studies and human services, agreed that attending the university has been a major adjustment after growing up in what she considers to be a fairly well-rounded and balanced community in Garden City, Kan.

"It was a culture shock," Roman said. "It really was. In Garden City, we're known for our diversity. We celebrate Chinese New Year, Cinco de Mayo, and Irish and German holidays, so I feel like we're very cultured."

Roman added that she occasionally feels that the white population at K-State harbors fear when it comes to learning about Hispanic culture, which she attributes to uncertainty about how to broach the topic.

"Here, people are kind of scared to ask you about your culture," Roman said. "They're scared to even interact with you. They've never even met Hispanics before, sometimes, so they're just like, 'I don't know how to approach you.'"

Madai Rivera, coordinator of Academic Services and Diversity for the College of Human Ecology, said she thinks groups of students from different cultures and backgrounds should have a give-and-take relationship.

"We need to reach out and approach," Rivera said. "There

are lots of fliers posted about events and everyone is, of course, always welcome, but perhaps we need to reach out a little farther. At the same time, the other populations need to be seeking those opportunities. I think it's the understanding that we all have our own culture that can be celebrated throughout the year and learned about."

Rivera, who attended K-State before returning to serve as an administrator, also dealt with the problem of cultural assumptions as an undergraduate. These misconceptions still tend to hinder individuals from completely understanding people of other backgrounds, she said.

Rivera told the story of a class she attended as a student in which the professor, perhaps unintentionally, made a presumptuous comment about her religious practices based on a judgment of her ethnicity.

"I remember him saying, 'Well you're Hispanic, so you're Catholic! Tell us how you celebrate this,' and I was

like, 'Well, actually, I'm not Catholic,'" Rivera said.

She said the racial assumption was minor, but she still sees the same issues recurring today across a broad spectrum of minority groups on campus.

Another issue is the struggle that undocumented individuals are faced with when it comes to funding education. Students who do not have a social security number are ineligible for financial aid and work permits, making college an even more challenging endeavor financially.

Concerned campus administrators have come together in recent years, with the help of an immigration attorney, to help devise solutions for these individuals to receive the grants, loans and part-time jobs necessary to pay for their books, tuition and living expenses.

Rivera, who was a member of the pioneering group, expressed her gratitude for those in positions of power who have been so willing to assist the Hispanic population.

"It's a benefit to be here and know that we have people here who want to help," Rivera said.

While there are many challenges that Hispanic students face when attending a large university like K-State, the world of education is, slowly but surely, making progress. Although a large portion of Hispanic students currently attending college are first-generation students, more elementary and middle school teachers are now discussing the topic of college with their students, Rosales said.

"Now, we're starting to talk to middle school students and getting younger Hispanics to start thinking about college," Rosales said. "Before that, we waited until we were in high school to learn about college. It's a very important thing in our society today to go to college, and now we're getting students interested early, and that has kind of become helpful in getting more [college] students."

UNIQUE | pg. 6

## BSU president carries on legacy of mentoring students

Ryan Manring  
staff writer

Since its formation in the late 1960s, K-State's Black Student Union has inspired, unified and prepared young black students for a bright future during their time on campus. Today, the organization continues the same tradition, led this year by BSU president Anita Easterwood.

Easterwood, senior in fine arts, is dedicated to helping students and ensuring their success by pushing them to live up to their full potential.

"She stimulates the ambition of those around her, wanting to make them do better," said Vuna Adams, junior in finance who helped BSU plan to host the 36th annual Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government. "That is something that is very keen in her leadership, since she pushes people to exceed past their expectations and limitations on themselves."

Her theme for the organization this year was "A Deeper Level." She wanted to inspire and engage students to go deeper socially, emotionally and academically, as well as with their leadership skills.

"We really focus on the retention, the leadership and the development of the black student community, and serve as a resource," Easterwood said, emphasizing the mission statement of the BSU.

To help fulfill this mission, the BSU assigns a personal mentor to students, pairing them up with an older student leader who has similar tastes and interests in order to help inspire students in their areas of focus.

Easterwood and the BSU are not only concerned with the academic success of their members,



K-State Black Student Union members participate in a group chant as an energetic speaker engages hundreds of students from different BSU clubs around the country in the Grand Ballroom of the K-State Student Union. The clubs traveled to K-State for the Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government, a three-day convention that kicked off Thursday and ends with a party on Saturday night.

but also with their post-graduation prospects, preparing members with career services including education on how to apply for jobs, information for internships and assistance and advice for net-

working.

"I wanted to make every meeting be about something crucial and beneficial to the members, whether that would be history, graduate school or internships,"

Easterwood said. "This is really an organization where you are here to learn and do something beneficial for yourself."

Chandrika Brewton, senior in sociology and public relations

delegate for the BSU, believes the organization plays a crucial role in helping students get involved.

BSU | pg. 5

## Student reports on Australian experience

Erica Hamman  
contributing writer

Hello everyone! My name is Erica Hamman and I am currently a junior spending the semester studying abroad at Deakin University at the Melbourne campus in Australia. I will be using this weekly article as a way to encourage students to study abroad and broadcast my experiences while I am traveling.

Today (or yesterday, for everyone back in the U.S.) is orientation, and I am planning on taking classes ranging from dance improvisation and body awareness to reading children's texts. I am quite excited for what is to come and hope you can take something personal from my experiences while abroad and will want to make memories like these sometime in your future!

Erica Hamman is a junior in biology. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).

*Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.*

Lorne for three days. While we were there, we could participate in a variety of activities including surf lessons, bushwalking through the wilderness, hiking and biking. We also lived with students from other countries and got first hand experience with their different cultures.

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Erica Hamman is a junior in

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## SGA | Student smoking survey bill passes

Continued from page 1

previous meeting were discussed. Much controversy accompanied a bill that proposed distributing a survey among K-State students to vote on campus smoking policies. Kyle Nuss, senior in architectural engineering, said there will never be a ban on smoking around the residence halls, making campus-wide smoking ban impossible.

The smoking vote bill passed, as did other bills from the last meeting allocating funds to the Asian-American Student Union and the African Student Union. Senators also passed a bill suggesting that SGA spend the City University Fund, which contains revenue generated by the

campus sales tax, on improving the K-State Student Union.

New bills proposed allocations to 4-H for a trip to their national convention, to the Egyptian Student Association to bring in a speaker to discuss current affairs in the Middle East, to the Harry Potter Alliance to bring in four wizard rock bands to raise funds for children's literacy, and to groups requesting funds for 2013 International Week and for a Minorities in Agriculture conference. A resolution was also introduced regarding the collegiate housing infrastructure.

The meeting featured speakers from the alternative service committee, who discussed classified employees becoming university support employees, and a representative from K-State ath-

letics who encouraged students to attend the final women's home basketball game against Texas Tech this Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

Next, Manhattan City Commission candidate Rich Jankovich spoke to senators about the importance of representing the K-State community.

"Represent your school all the way through; there is always a light on you as a senator," Jankovich said.

Jankovich went on to stress the importance of voting in the upcoming city commission election, explaining that every vote counts.

The senate will reconvene with the usual dress code next Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Big 12 Room in the Union.

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## UNIQUE | K-State 'one big family'

Continued from page 4

K-State's population of Hispanic students is not large, but they have the support of several student organizations. Through student organizations such as the Hispanic American Leadership Organization and the League of United Latin American Citizens, as well as through fraternities and sororities like Sigma Lambda Beta and Sigma Lambda Gamma, students find the community and leadership they need throughout their university experience.

Johnny Varela, senior in business education, said having that guidance and support from staff, administration and peers is a major reason that he has been successful at K-State so far. Varela said he feels that the university has welcomed him with open arms.

"One thing I've noticed about K-State is that it's really friendly," Varela said. "I really appreciate that here at K-State, it's not just that you're Latino or of any other ethnicity. Here at school, it feels like we're all together. Like one big family."

## JAR | Show portrays 4 generations of women

Continued from page 1

the characters. Everybody who comes to see this show will get something out of it."

Logan Jones, freshman in theatre, said the show was wonderful. He said he could feel a real connection among the actors, as well as between the actors and the audience.

The climax of the show occurs when all four generations of women join in an argument that goes beyond anything seen before in the play. The women begin to realize that they can trace the issues they all face with their children back to how they were raised themselves. The characters learn to see and acknowledge the struggles that previous generations faced, which brought them to where they are.

"Show me a woman who don't got a scar, and I will show you a woman who ain't never lived nothin' but a lie," said Vallejo as MaDear.

Alex Gaines, sophomore in theatre, played college-age Vennie and said "Jar the Floor" was one of the most family-oriented plays she has ever performed in. Gaines said that while taking part in this production, she actually felt as though she was a part of the family she was portraying. Every eye roll, every hand placed stubbornly on her hip, every exasperated sigh felt real to her.

"This play is like peeking in the day in the life of this family," Gaines said. "This is a warm show that hits on so many different levels. Everyone will be able to see a part of their family in this show."

Gaines said "Jar the Floor" has been a wonderful journey for her.

"We have put in a lot of work and time and tears, good tears, but tears nonetheless," Gaines said. "[This show] deserves to be experienced by people. It is more than worth the emotional connection people will feel with it."

## K-State sports weekend: track athletes reach for championship

Mark Kern  
sports editor

### Equestrian

The No. 4 Wildcats travel to Texas for a weekend showdown with No. 6 Baylor and No. 8 TCU. The Wildcats were victorious in their first two matches against their Big 12 rivals, and head coach Casie Maxwell said that the team must be ready to ride.

"This weekend will be a big challenge," Maxwell said. "Both Baylor and TCU have strong teams and have been performing really well, so we will definitely have to be on our A-game."

### Rugby

Both the K-State men's and women's rugby teams will take on former Big 12 rival Nebraska on Saturday. The men's game starts at 5 p.m. at East Stadium, while the women's rugby team will face Nebraska on home turf in Lincoln at 2:30 p.m.

### Baseball

The Wildcat baseball team starts off its home schedule with the first of a 19-game homestand on Saturday, playing host to the Oakland Grizzlies. In a deviation from the team's original schedule, K-State elected to play one game on Saturday and finish the weekend with a double-header rather than play tonight, when temperatures are expected to be in the low 30s.

### Track and field

Three members of the K-State track and field team, junior long jumper Jharyl Bowry, junior high jumper Zack Riley and senior pole vaulter Kyle Wait, head to the Arkansas Final qualifier today for their last chance to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship next week. All three members are only centimeters away from qualifying for the national championships.

### Women's tennis

After gaining their highest ranking in two years, the Wildcats travel to Lincoln, Neb. to take on former Big 12 rival Nebraska, who currently ranks 10th in the country. Two top-20 individually ranked players, No. 16 senior Mary Weatherholt of Nebraska and K-State's No. 17 junior Petra Niedermayerova, will lead their teams into the weekend showdown.

Emily DeShazer | Collegian

A K-State equestrian team member focuses on riding during the Equitation on the Flat competition on Oct. 5, 2012, at Timbercreek Stables in Manhattan.



## DEBATE | Student voters look for different qualities in candidates

Continued from page 1

the candidates see their own strengths," Burton said of the debate.

Questions were posed to each candidate by two announcers, Ben Höpper, program adviser to the Union, and Christina Hurtado, coordinator for student development in the Department of Housing and Dining. Each question focused on some aspect of the candidates' strengths and how they will use that strength in their respective position, if elected.

"It was very interesting," Hurtado said. "We had a lot of people, and I feel that the candidates spoke well and were good about sticking to their platforms."

For presidential candidate Kyle Nuss, senior in architectural engineering, the strengths of achiever, competition, learner, focus and positivity were important.

"Achievers" are those who work hard to achieve a goal. "Competition" refers to the tendency of people to mea-

sure their progress against others' and strive to be in first place. "Learners" are people who have a desire to learn and want to constantly improve. "Focus" refers to the ability to keep a goal on task and follow through. Finally, those with "Positivity" are all about being upbeat and positive.

Nuss's vice presidential running mate Ariel Mendiola, junior in sociology, cites Nuss's positivity strength as his most important.

"His positivity kept us going and would always keep us going," Mendiola said. "He kept our eyes on the prize."

Mendiola's strengths included arranger, achiever, harmony, belief and developer.

"Arrangers" like to figure out how the puzzle fits and arrange for maximum productivity. "Harmony" refers to those who look for agreements and stay away from arguments. Those with the "belief" strength have a core purpose in life and certain unchanging core values. "Developers" want to bring out

the best in people and help them work to the best of their ability.

"His drive to achieve our goals is most important," Nuss said about Mendiola. "What you're going to remember about the president and vice president is what they achieved."

Opposing Nuss for presidency is Eli Schooley, senior in political science; his strengths include competition, achiever, discipline, focus and maximizer.

Those with "discipline" demonstrate structure and organization. "Maximizers" try to stimulate others' strengths so those individuals can really excel.

"I think I am the best candidate because my strengths complement each other," Schooley said. "Discipline" and "focus" will keep the group on task, while "achiever" and "competition" will make sure we're getting better as a whole."

Running with Schooley for vice president is Jake Unruh, junior in finance, who

whose strengths include woo, achiever, arranger, positivity and developer. "Woo," as a strength, describes those who like to meet new people and make connections.

"I want to expand an executive mentorship program from the business school," Unruh said. "My 'developer' strength is to put people in that position so they can create connections."

Although this type of debate was the first of its kind, student turnout was high. In front of the candidates, all seats were packed with several students standing in the back, listening to the debate.

"I think strengths are good indicators of people's qualities, and students can see what they bring to the positions," said Maureen Orth, senior in English literature. "I like having the debate focused on that."

Besides listening to the debates, students could also text in support for either candidate during or after answering a question. The results were shown on a projector

screen next to the candidates. For the most part, both parties seemed to be popular, tying on many questions or winning by a few votes.

"For president and vice

president, you have to use 'analyzer' and 'woo' so you can look at the whole situation and win the student body," said Joe Oaks, freshman in political science. "I think Schooley and Unruh did that the best. They had better 'woo' and their decisions seemed very informed based."

However, some students found Nuss and Mendiola's strengths more compelling.

"You have to be an achiever, be someone who gets stuff done, and have a positive attitude if it doesn't go the way you like it," said Kelby Burton, senior in architectural engineering. "I think Kyle and Ariel campaigned that the best. Kyle is always positive and passionate about K-State and how he wants to improve the university."

Voting for president and vice president will begin March 5 and end March 6.

## JUSTICE | Courts should take action against benign discrimination

Continued from page 1

sults. He criticized this approach as counterproductive and, throughout, called for collective action.

Referencing the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 case Brown v. Board of Education, Ford noted that "on Brown's 50th birthday, we heard a lot of celebration, but two-fifths of black and Latino students still attended schools that were over 90 percent non-white."

He argued that "schools re-segregated when federal courts decided they didn't

need to continue the effort."

To illustrate the problem, Ford pointed to Walmart v. Dukes, a potential class action lawsuit filed by 1.5 million women against the retail giant that was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011.

"The applicant pool was 75 percent women, but few women were in management positions," Ford explained.

Although the case would have been the largest class suit in American history, Ford said that it was unfairly denied its day in court when the Supreme Court ruled

"[In Walmart v. Dukes,] the statistical disparity showed us there was something wrong, but no individual woman could show discrimination."

Richard Thompson Ford

Stanford law professor

that the plaintiffs did not share enough commonalities to constitute a class.

"The statistical disparity showed us there was something wrong, but no individual woman could show discrimination," Ford said.

To avoid similar failures in the future, Ford called for systemic, comprehensive regulations.

"We have to move away from the idea that we can't make value judgments between benign and malign

forms of discrimination," Ford said. "We need to move away from individual entitlement and towards collective action."

After the lecture, Ford fielded questions from the audience on his plan for moving forward.

"Federal agencies who enforce anti-discrimination laws don't actually have the power to do so," Ford said. "They should be able to intervene when they have disparities in promotions."

While problems result from systemic incentives, Ford maintained that "those incentives can be changed."

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